

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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VEB Metallwerke Harzgerode

1. This factory is a key industry for the production of high-quality light metals used mainly in the manufacture of engines. It employs 350 persons, and manufactures 70 - 90 percent of the pistons used in East Germany.
2. Orders on hand for the present year amount to 6,000,000 eastmarks. They include orders for the H3A 4-cylinder 60 h.p. engines, which are built by IFA for installation in 3-ton trucks. The H6 engine has 6 cylinders and develops 100 h.p. It is used to power Horch G5 motor-cars, which are used by the national army. These vehicles, which are of the three-axle type, have six-wheel drive. Two-thirds of the pistons produced are for 4-cylinder engines, the balance for 6-cylinder engines.
3. The factory is also turning out pistons and cylinder heads for 4,500 engines of the 3 OK type, manufactured at VEB Kraftfahrzeugwerk Phaenomen, Zittau. This is an air-cooled 4-cylinder 30 h.p. engine, used mainly for ambulances, etc.
4. Last year the Harzgerode plant also supplied pistons for 6,000 40-h.p. tractors of the Pionier type, which are being built at VEB Schlepperwerk Nordhausen. Only 1,000 pistons have been ordered this year, because production of the Pionier is to stop next September. The Pionier is to be replaced by the 30-h.p. RS tractor. The Nordhausen plant also produces caterpillar tractors of the RS 62 type developing 60 h.p.
5. VEB Metallwerke Harzgerode Manufactures 1,000 cylinder heads per month for the manufacture of F9 engines. These are 3-cylinder, 2-stroke DKW engines which are built at VEB Kraftfahrzeugwerk Framo, Hainichen, and VEB Automobilfabrik EMW, Eisenach. Most of the engines are installed in trucks earmarked for export.

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VEB Automobilfabrik EMW, Eisenach

6. In 1952, the Harzgerode plant supplied the EMW plant at Eisenach with 15,000 cylinder heads for 350 cc. motorcycles. As of next September, the EMW at Eisenach will also build 750 cc. motorcycles of the R75 type. Output will be reserved exclusively for the armed forces.

VEB Fahrzeug u. Geraetewerk Simson, Suhl

7. The Simson plant at Suhl received 10,000 cylinder heads for the Avo 235 motorcycles of 250 cc. This type of motorcycles is being built by Forsten & Co., Leipzig. It is mainly used by the FDJ, the police, and the Association for Sport and Technics.
8. The Simson factory is developing a motorcycle of 600 cc. which is scheduled to go into production towards the end of 1953.

VEB IFA Motorenwerk, Chemnitz and Johannisthal

9. The IFA motor works at Johannisthal and Chemnitz have received 500 piston skirts and other parts for an outboard motor of 125 cc. for Pionier boats. 280 of these were supplied on 31 March 1953. In spite of the fact that the order had been placed by the Office for Economic Matters, the boats were accepted by Soviet officers.
10. The IFA motor works at Johannisthal is also manufacturing 200 SM4/17 150-hp diesel engines.
11. At VEB IFA Schlepperwerk Schoenebeck, Elbe, 550 engines of the same type are being built.

Berlin-Johannisthal Experimental Station

12. For the tractor factory at Schoenebeck, the experimental station at Berlin-Johannisthal is developing an engine similar to the Junkers, equipped with counter-pistons. It will be used for a vehicle of the Alligator type, which is equipped with a belt movement made of Perlon in place of tracks. This vehicle is used exclusively for military purposes. Twelve engines of this type are at present undergoing tests.

Shortages of raw materials

13. The greatest difficulty encountered in the production of pistons is the shortage of silicon with a low iron content; 20,000 tons of pulverized silicon were imported illegally from [redacted] This quantity represents approximately 300 tons of light metal containing silicon for piston alloys.

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